

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 25. The rejections are each respectfully traversed. This Response "B" cancels no claims, amends no claims, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1 to 25 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Harney (US 5,014,958) in view of Mitas et al. (US 6,216,851). The Examiner stated that "Harney does not specifically show a hollow rivet with a central bore having an internal diameter, wherein the central bore extends for a length less than the total length of the body portion wherein the central bore is open at the end of the body portion opposite the head portion and is closed toward the body portion and wherein the body portion is expanded outwardly within the apertures to engage the links" and "Mitas et al. shows wherein the body portion is expanded outwardly within the apertures to engage the desired secured surfaces, used in order to reduce movement of the secured surfaces", and "therefore it would have been obvious to someone skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the hollow rivet of Mitas et al. in place of the rivet described by Harney in order to limit movement between the desired surfaces such as the links taught by Harney".

Claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable because they each include the limitation "wherein said body portion extends through said first and second apertures and is plastically deformed so that the body portion is expanded outwardly within the first and second apertures to engage the first and second links within the first and second apertures whereby the fastener secures the first and second links to allow relative rotational movement between the first and second links while preventing relative linear motion therebetween". No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by claim 1. The Harney specification is silent as to the type of rivet 220 that is used but figures 4 and 7 clearly show that rivet 220 is a solid rivet and does not have a central bore of any kind. Mitas et al disclose a rivet having a blind hollow cavity 38 formed by walls 36. During installation the walls 36 are deformed to engage inclined or frusto-conically-shaped countersink 56 formed at the end of an aperture 26. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. The rivet walls 36 are deformed only at their ends to engage the countersink 56 and secure the rivet in the aperture 26.

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Nils O. Olson
Serial No.: 09/993,362
Filing Date: November 16, 2001
Title: ZERO LOOSENESS FASTENER FOR LINKAGE ASSEMBLY
Examiner: Amy Jo Sterling
Art Unit: 3677

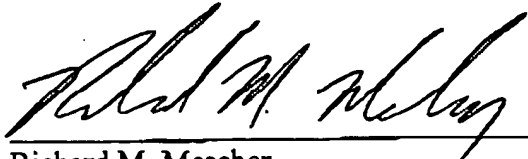
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is to certify that this Response "B" and Authorization to Charge Deposit Account (in duplicate) were transmitted by facsimile to fax machine number 703-305-3597 this 11th day of June, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: June 11, 2003

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